

Exploration DBQ

Historical Context: The first Europeans of the 15th & 16th centuries who explored the Americas were looking for a water route to Asia in order to get spices, silks and other riches. Though few explorers found a water route to Asia, their voyages led to the discovery of "new land" in the Western Hemisphere. Once it was discovered, more and more explorers continued to venture out to this New World.

Question: Using the documents provided and your knowledge of social studies, write a well-developed essay explaining the reasons European explorers came to explore the land in the Western Hemisphere.

Document 1

"The lands beyond the sea hold vast fortunes for those with the courage and bravery to accept the challenge. A new world awaits the man whose longing for the voyage to discover and claim new lands is overcome by nothing but his eagerness to depart this land."

- *Spanish explorer, 1548*

Document 2

"A world awaits the Christianizing efforts of the Church in a land far away where heathens [non-Christians] live a barbarous life with no regard to the laws that guide all good Christian men. We will rescue these lost souls and win them to the Holy Church."

- *Spanish Cardinal Trilini, 1598*

Document 3

"Sugar, spices, precious gems, and increases of immeasurable loads make the pockets of the merchants grow full as luxuries from new lands are brought here in mass from distant lands."

- *European merchant, 1500*